

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 14, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 12-13 as indicated.

12. (amended) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;

(b) [either (i) exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen-specific peptide or (ii)] transfecting the dendritic cells with a gene encoding an [antigen-specific peptide] antigen; and

(c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen.

13. (amended) A method according to claim 12, [wherein step (a)] further [comprises] comprising contacting the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with a molecule selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF- α , IL-3, c-kit ligand, fusions of GM-CSF and IL-3, CD40 ligand, and CD40 [binding protein] antibody.

Please add the following new claims.

--15. (new) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population;

(b) exposing the dendritic cells to an antigen; and

(c) allowing the dendritic cells to process and express the antigen.

16. (new) The method according to claim 15 further comprising contacting the hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with a molecule selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF- α , IL-3, c-kit ligand, fusions of GM-CSF and IL-3, CD40 ligand, and CD40 antibody.

17. (new) The method according to claim 12 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

18. (new) The method according to claim 13 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

19. (new) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is a recombinant human GM-CSF.

20. (new) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is CD40 ligand.

21. (new) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is c-kit ligand.

22. (new) The method according to claim 13 wherein the molecule is TNF- α .

23. (new) The method according to claim 15 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

24. (new) The method according to claim 16 wherein the flt3-ligand is a recombinant human flt3-ligand.

25. (new) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is a recombinant human GM-CSF.

26. (new) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is CD40 ligand.

27. (new) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is c-kit ligand.

28. (new) The method according to claim 16 wherein the molecule is TNF- α .

29. (new) A method of preparing a dendritic cell population, the method comprising contacting *in vitro* hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with flt3-ligand in an amount sufficient to generate a dendritic cell population, thereby generating the dendritic cell population.